

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS

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1. An image recording apparatus
comprising:

a coding/decoding part performing coding
and decoding a given signal in one of a plurality of
10 coding/decoding modes of different bit rates;

a recording medium coupled with said
coding/decoding part; and

a control part setting a predetermined bit
rate to be applied by said coding/decoding part in
15 case the given signal is output after being coded
and decoded by said coding/decoding part without
storage thereof in said recording medium.

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2. The image recording apparatus as
claimed in claim 1, wherein the predetermined bit
rate is that on such a mode of the plurality of
25 coding/decoding modes as to provide the highest
image quality.

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3. The image recording apparatus as
claimed in claim 1, wherein the predetermined bit
rate is further higher than that on such a mode of
the plurality of coding/decoding modes as to provide
35 the highest image quality.

4. An image recording apparatus comprising:

a coding/decoding part performing coding and decoding a given signal in one of a plurality of
5 coding/decoding modes of different bit rates;

a recording medium coupled with said coding/decoding part; and

a control part automatically setting a predetermined bit rate to be applied by said
10 coding/decoding part according to a predetermined parameter concerning recording of the given signal to be recorded into said recording medium.

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5. The image recording apparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein:

the predetermined parameter includes a
20 remaining storage capacity A (bytes) of said recording medium; a time T (seconds) of recording reserved; a maximum available recording bit rate Rmax (bps); and a minimum available recording bit rate Rmin (bps); and

25 said control part determines the bit rate R (bps) by which the recording is performed such as that satisfying the following formula:

$$T \times R/8 \leq A$$

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wherein, $R = R_{\max}$ when $R > R_{\max}$; and
 $R = R_{\min}$ when $R < R_{\min}$.

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6. The image recording apparatus as

claimed in claim 4, wherein:

the predetermined parameter includes a remaining storage capacity A (bytes) of said recording medium; and

5 said control part lowers the bit rate by which the recording is performed when the remaining storage capacity A is less than a predetermined value.

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7. The image recording apparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein:

15 the predetermined parameter includes a remaining storage capacity A (bytes) of said recording medium; a time T (seconds) of recording reserved; and a minimum available recording bit rate Rmin (bps); and

20 said control part determines the bit rate R (bps) by which the recording is performed such as that satisfying the following formula:

$$T \times R/8 \leq A$$

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wherein $R = R_{min}$ when $R < R_{min}$.

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8. An image recording apparatus comprising:

a coding/decoding part performing coding and decoding a given signal in one of a plurality of coding/decoding modes of different bit rates;

35 a recording medium coupled with said coding/decoding part; and

a control part causing an input image
signal to be automatically recorded into said
recording medium even if no instructions for
recording the input image signal is given, and
5 causing the image signal thus recorded into the
recording medium to be accessible when predetermined
instructions concerning the image signal is given.

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9. The image recording apparatus as
claimed in claim 8, wherein said control part does
not perform the automatic recording of the image
15 signal when the remaining storage capacity of the
recording medium is less than a predetermined value.

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10. The image recording apparatus as
claimed in claim 8, wherein said control part causes
the image signal to be automatically recorded into a
file, which a user cannot access, of the recording
25 medium

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11. The image recording apparatus as
claimed in claim 8, wherein control information
concerning the image signal is divided and recorded
into the recording medium in a directory area
thereof and also an area thereof in which the image
35 signal is stored separately.

12. A semiconductor device comprising:
a coding/decoding circuit performing
coding and decoding a given signal in one of a
plurality of coding/decoding modes of different bit
5 rates; and

a control circuit setting a predetermined
bit rate to be applied by said coding/decoding
circuit in case the given signal is output after
being coded and decoded by said coding/decoding part
10 without storage thereof in a predetermined recording
medium.

15 13. The semiconductor device as claimed
in claim 12, wherein the predetermined bit rate is
that of such a mode of the plurality of
coding/decoding modes as to provide the highest
20 image quality.

25 14. The semiconductor device as claimed
in claim 12, wherein the predetermined bit rate is
further higher than that of such a mode of the
plurality of coding/decoding modes as to provide the
highest image quality.

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35 15. A semiconductor device comprising:
a coding/decoding circuit performing
coding and decoding a given signal in one of a
plurality of coding/decoding modes of different bit

rates; and

a control circuit automatically setting a predetermined bit rate to be applied by said coding/decoding part according to a predetermined parameter concerning recording of the given signal to be recorded into a predetermined recording medium.

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16. The semiconductor device as claimed in claim 15, wherein:

the predetermined parameter includes a remaining storage capacity A (bytes) of said recording medium; a time T (seconds) of recording reserved; a maximum available recording bit rate Rmax (bps); and a minimum available recording bit rate Rmin (bps); and

said control circuit determines the bit rate R (bps) by which the recording is performed such as that satisfying the following formula:

$$T \times R/8 \leq A$$

wherein, $R = R_{\max}$ when $R > R_{\max}$; and
 $R = R_{\min}$ when $R < R_{\min}$.

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17. The semiconductor device as claimed in claim 15, wherein:

the predetermined parameter includes a remaining storage capacity A (bytes) of said recording medium; and

said control circuit lowers the bit rate by which the recording is performed when the

remaining storage capacity A is less than a predetermined value.

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18. The semiconductor device as claimed in claim 15, wherein:

the predetermined parameter includes a remaining storage capacity A (bytes) of said recording medium; a time T (seconds) of recording reserved; and a minimum available recording bit rate R_{min} (bps); and

said control circuit determines the bit rate R (bps) by which the recording is performed such as that satisfying the following formula:

$$T \times R/8 \leq A$$

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wherein $R = R_{min}$ when $R < R_{min}$.

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19. A semiconductor device comprising:

a coding/decoding circuit performing coding and decoding a given signal in one of a plurality of coding/decoding modes of different bit rates; and

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a control circuit causing an input image signal to be automatically recorded into a predetermined recording medium even if no instructions for recording the input image signal is given, and, causing the image signal thus recorded into the recording medium to be accessible when predetermined instructions concerning the image signal is given.

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